

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UNSC, SF, UK, FR

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON ON SC
AND NAMIBIA

1. SUMMARY: AT FRENCH REQUEST, UK AND FRENCH EMBASSY
OFFICIALS MET IN DEPT ON MARCH 17 TO DISCUSS STRATEGY OF
UPCOMING SC MEETING ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOCUS OF MEETING
WAS ON DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.
FRANCE AND UK INDICATED THAT TRILATERAL TALKS SHOULD CONTINUE
IN WASHINGTON; WHILE US SIDE DID NOT DEMUR, IT SUGGESTED
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THAT ACTION IS IN NEW YORK AND MOST CONSULTATIONS CAN BEST
TAKE PLACE THERE. MAPUTO CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA AND
ZIMBABWE WAS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH
REAFFIRMING DECISION NOT TO ATTEND. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY MINISTER BOYER AND BRITISH MINISTER
MORETON MET IN THE DEPT MARCH 17 WITH IO ASSISTANT

SECRETARY-DESIGNATE MAYNES AND AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE TO DISCUSS WESTERN STRATEGY FOR SC DEBATE FOR APARTHEID WHICH BEGINS MARCH 21. FRENCH HAD REQUESTED TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS TO DISCUSS AFRICAN REACTIONS TO US PROPOSAL FOR SC DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA AND FOUR AFRICAN RESOLUTIONS ON APARTHEID. MR. MAYNES REVIEWED RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK OVER PAST 48 HOURS BETWEEN FIVE WESTERN SC MEMBERS AND SELECTED AFRICANS.

3. THE KEY POINTS COVERED IN THE DISCUSSIONS WERE:

A. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES: UK REPORTED THAT AFRICANS APPEARED WILLING TO HAVE A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT THEY ALSO WISH TO INCLUDE POINTS FROM THE FOUR RESOLUTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE PREPARED FOR THE APARTHEID DEBATE. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS BUT WAS EXPECTABLE AFRICAN BARGAINING POSITION. THERE ALSO WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH BOYER'S PERSONAL PROPOSITION THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT PRINCIPLES REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA AUTOMATICALLY ARE APPLICABLE TO RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, THE LATTER TWO BEING COLONIAL TERRITORIES. RESPONDING TO A FRENCH QUERY ABOUT HOW THE US PLANS TO PROCEED WITH A DRAFT DECLARATION, THE US SIDE COMMENTED THAT WE HOPE THE DECLARATION EMERGES AS A COMMON PRODUCT OF BOTH THE WESTERN AND THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK. AFRICAN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INFORMAL "CONTACT GROUP" WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WEST WILL FACILITATE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

B. TACTICAL SITUATION: BRITISH AND FRENCH GENERALLY SUPPORTED US PROPOSAL TO FORESHORTEN APARTHEID DEBATE, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE SKEPTICAL THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. ONCE THE DEBATE STARTS, IT WILL TEND TO PERPETUATE ITSELF. THERE WAS ALSO SOME SKEPTICISM THAT THE AFRICANS WILL BE CONTENT ONLY WITH A DECLARATION. THE US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT WAS PRECISELY THE REASON WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THE WEST TAKE MEASURES, SUCH AS THE FIVE POWER DEMARCHE, TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE AFRICANS THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO PUT THEM OFF WITH ADDITIONAL RHETORIC. IT WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOLLOWING A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, AND ESPECIALLY MOVEMENT ON NAMIBIA AFTER A FIVE POWER DEMARCHE, THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE DURING THE SUMMER FOR TOUGH SC ACTION ON NAMIBIA AND APARTHEID. MORETON MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EC-9 DECLARING SUPPORT FOR AN ARMS EMBARGO

AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AS AN EFFECTIVE MOVE OUTSIDE THE SC, WHICH COULD BE ANNOUNCED IN THE SC, TO DEMONSTRATE WESTERN WILLINGNESS TO ACT.

C. "SWEDISH" RESOLUTION: UK REPORTED THAT THE SWEDES THEMSELVES HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE AFRICAN VERSION OF THE RESOLUTION SWEDEN SPONSORED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLING FOR DISCOURAGEMENT OF NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. SWEDEN IS CONTINUING TO WORK FOR A BETTER RESOLUTION, WHICH IS MORE PERMISSIVE AND LOOSELY WORDED.

MORETON REAFFIRMED THAT THE UK DOES NOT WANT A CHAPTER VII FINDING AND THAT THE ORIGINAL SWEDISH PROPOSAL MIGHT BE THE "LEAST UNATTRACTIVE" OF OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS GIVEN ITS VOLUNTARY NATURE AND ITS EMPHASIS ON NEW INVESTMENTS.

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D. MAPUTO CONFERENCE: UK CONFIRMED THAT THE MORE LONDON LOOKS AT THE CONFERENCE THE LESS THEY LIKE IT. THE UK IS CONCERNED THAT UK ATTENDANCE MIGHT HARM RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE THE CONFERENCE MIGHT WELL ENDORSE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE PRINCIPLE OF ARMED STRUGGLE. SEEING LITTLE CHANCE OF INFLUENCING THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE UK PREFERS NOT TO ATTEND. THE FRENCH SUPPORTED THE UK. THE US SIDE SAID IT IS CONTINUING TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDANCE.

4. MAYNES CONCLUDED BY SUGGESTING THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON INCLUDE CANADA AND THE FRG IN LIGHT OF THE ROLE THOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE PLAYING IN TALKS IN NEW YORK. BOTH THE UK AND FRENCH DEMURRED, REFERRING TO TRADITION OF TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE US, UK AND FRANCE AS PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SC. THEY AGREED THAT MOST CONSULTATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK IN THE FORMAT OF THE FIVE, BUT THAT TRIPARTITE TALKS BE HELD IN WASHINGTON WHEN THAT SEEMS TO BE DESIRABLE.

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